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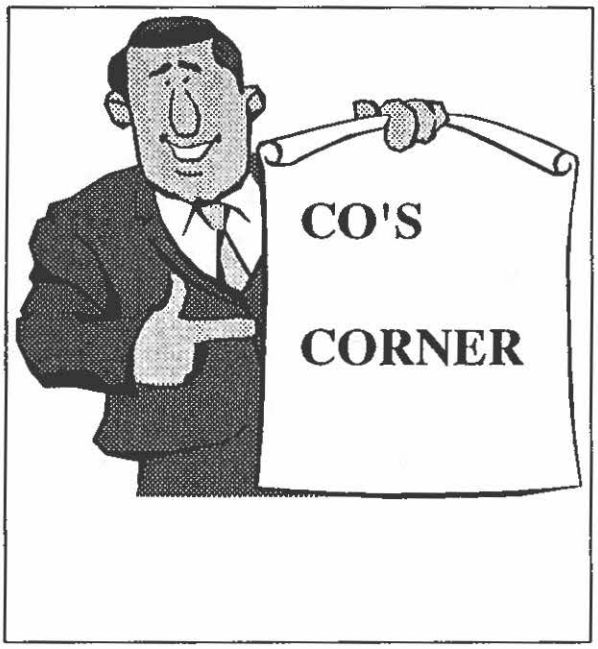
Issue 00007 01 October 1997



FROM THE BRIDGE

*These remarks are from the Commanding Officer's address at the 4th Dental battalion Change of Command ceremony, 7 Sep 97.

Admiral Fowler, Admiral Harrison, Colonel Wells, Capt Butler, Capt Hill, distinguished guests, colleagues, and friends: It is with great humility and great pride that I stand before you as the Commanding Officer of the 4th Dental Battalion. The pipeline to command has been challenging, yet enjoyable; interminable, yet far too brief. On the one hand it was a century ago that I first put on my "butter bars" and on the other it could only have been last week that I left Officer Candidate School for my first ship.

It is a tremendous honor to succeed such brilliant commanders as Capt Hill, Capt Butler, and Admiral Harrison. Each time the torch has been passed, the flame has burned brighter. The responsibility of carrying that torch is awesome but a responsibility that I eagerly accept.

I've been privileged in my military career to have served with the very best. I went to "Leadership School" on the deckplates of the United States Navy and learned from the greatest - from top notch Petty Officers, wise and experienced Chief Petty Officers, fellow Division Officers and Department Heads, and some of the very best Commanding Officers this Navy and Marine Corps Team has ever known. I have learned much in my twenty five years of service and I owe a great debt of thanks to my many mentors. To their credit I have come to understand that leadership begins with taking care of your people. The *people* of the 4th Dental Battalion will always be my highest priority. And I have also learned that when you refuse to accept anything less than the very best, you will almost always get it. You, the crew of the 4th Dental Battalion are the finest men and women this great nation has to offer. I expect and will accept no less than your very best. In turn, you should expect and accept not less than mine. Every job is a self portrait of the persons who did it. Together we will autograph our work with excellence.

Well, a wise and seasoned commodore once wrote that the "The three old rules for the new Commanding Officer at the change of command ceremony are: show up, stand up, wrap up. If you speak more than 30 seconds you have overstepped the bounds of good manners..."I fear I have already breached that line.

Ladies and gentleman, thank you very much for joining us here today. You have indeed made this occasion a memorable one. But the ceremony is almost over and it is time to get on with the

business at hand. After all, we are only successful when we are moving toward a worthwhile goal.

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
DTCM Jill B. Fernandez, USNR
1948-1998: Dental Technicians 50th
"The Tradition Lives On"

As your new Command Master Chief I look forward to meeting and working with you in the coming months. I expect the leading chiefs of our company's and detachments to keep me informed of enlisted issues. I can only help if I know what is going on. I will try to get to as many meetings as possible so that we will have a chance to meet. Our Battalion is only as good as it's people.

The Dental Technician rating will be 50 years old 2 Apr 98. DTCM Hood(Ret) has offered to collect the reserve DT history, working in conjunction with the active duty, DY/CM George Allen out of Great Lakes. Look through your old photos or write down a memorable experience as a dental technician and send them to DTCM Hood. We hope to gather enough information to put out an Anniversary issue in the spring Oak Leaves & Acorns.

The New 8707 NEC

Dental Technicians who are licensed dental hygienists can now request the secondary NEC of 8708 by submitting the following:

1. NAVPERS 1221/Navy Enlisted Classification(NEC) Change/Recommendation.
2. Copy of college degree in dental hygiene
3. Copy of dental hygiene license

Send to: Department of the Navy Command Officer, Code 22, NAVRESPERSCEN, 4400 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA 70149-7800.

I can be contacted at the following numbers: (H) (212) 533-1860 (W) (212) 998-9653 (FAX) (212) 995-4242, Email: JBFDTCM@aol.com.

I was born in Alberston, New York, I graduated from high school in 1974 and moved to New Hampshire. On 1 October 1975 I joined the U.S. Navy and was off to Orlando for basic training. After graduation I was stationed at Roosevelt roads, Puerto Rico as a Seamen in Surface Operations. Striking for the DT rating on my off duty hours, I finally went to DT "A" school in San Diego. Graduating in Nov of 1977, I was sent to NNDC, Bethesda where I became the LPO of the Periodontics Department. I advanced to Petty Officer Third Class and Second before being honorably discharged from active duty in Sept 1980. I immediately began college at the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut, studying dental hygiene. At the same time I affiliated with a Reserve Medical Unit out of New Haven. In 1982 I completed an A.S. degree in dental hygiene and moved to New York City where I began working in private practice. I continued drilling in New Haven and then New London when a dental unit was formed. It is there that I picked up First Class. In 1985, I earned a B.S. degree in Health Education at New York University, in addition to earning my degree I became the Leading Petty Officer of my reserve unit. In 1988 I became a full time faculty at New York University College of Dentistry. In 1990 I picked up Chief, and in 1993 Senior Chief. In 1994 I changed units and soon after became the Command Senior Chief of the BUMED 106 unit. During this period I went to night school and graduated in 1995 with a Master's in Public health. I was selected to my present grade in 1996 and also was promoted at work to Assistant Professor. 1 October 1997 I take over as the Command Master Chief of the 4th Dental Battalion.

I have been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal with Gold Star, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal, Naval Reserve Force, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Expert Pistol Medal.

Master Chief Fernandez is married to DTCM(FMF) Fred E. Wilson, Jr, USN (Ret). Currently they reside in Greenwich Village, New York City.

OPERATIONS OFFICER
CDR KAREN M. PETRELLA

I am pleased and honored to have been selected as the 4th Dental Battalion Operations Officer. Although I am no stranger to the personnel of the 24th Dental Company, having severed as Executive Officer for the last three years, I realize that my name is unfamiliar to many in the 4th and 14th Dental Companies.

After graduating from SUNY at Buffalo, College of Dentistry in 1981, I spent a little more than 5 years on active duty at NDC, Great Lakes and aboard the USS Frank Cable(AS-40) homeported in Charleston, SC. Although selected for the 2 year Comprehensive Dentistry postgraduate course at NNDC, Bethesda, I made the difficult decision to resign my commission and join the Selected Reserves. The next 8 years were served as OIC, XO and CO of Program 32 units in three Reserve Centers in the New York metropolitan area, often as the only Dental Officer. Job relocation moved my family to Atlanta in May 1994 where I joined my first Program 9 unit, the 24th DENCO. In October of that year, I began 3 years as XO. All of the billets have been great learning experiences as I expect the next one to be.

As Operations Officer I will be involved in the Base load planning, supporting the exercise OICs, overseeing logistics and assisting the Executive Officer. I am looking forward to another interesting and demanding tour.

4th Dental Company Reporting as ordered, Sir!
CAPT Kerry J. Krause

The 4th Dental Company put in a busy 4th quarter in the fiscal year. It was AT season and there was lots of stuff going down throughout the summer. AOT1 and AOT2 went down in July and August, with about 16 of our members combining for the 2 amphibious assault training exercises at beautiful Coronado and a less than pristine Camp Pendelton. Everyone escaped unscathed, and all things being equal, we would rather be in Coronado.

A joint exercise with the 2nd Medical Battalion (active duty medical types) went down with the 4th in August at Camp Lejeune. This is a new exercise to learn about what's really expected of us in the field when the real rubber meets the road. Camp Lejeune won't make too many lists of must see places in the US.

Additionally, we had personnel involved with NAVLEAD, NECAP and Operation Cobra Gold, in Thailand. Once again, the 4th DenCo was all over the map.

Speaking of all over the map, the command team made site visits to Portland (those folks really know how to show us site visit dudes a good time) in June. July saw Capt Schell, Capt Krause, DTC Ballou and DTC Postell at Camp Pendelton planning the upcoming October IDTT with the active duty personnel. Also, Capt Schell and Capt Krause made site visits to San Diego while Capt Schell found his way up to Long Beach as well. In September, we wrapped up our site visits for FY97 with a final trip to see the Sacramento det. it was a great way to end the fiscal year.

The CO signs off. After three excellent years, I must bid adieu to the 4th Dental Company. I must say that this job was much more than I anticipated--it was actually fun. The reason for the fun was the fact that I got to work for the members of the elite 4th Dental Company. From the very beginning, everyone always had the correct answer--if it wasn't "yes", it was "I will find out". This made my job extremely easy and fulfilling.

All of the detachments pulled their weight during my tenure; every member had the "semper gumby" attitude that makes this more than a job and even better than an adventure. We had countless awards, promotions and accolades because of one reason: you earned them.

The men and women of the 4th should stand tall knowing that you gave it your best shot and helped out a great number of Marines and sailors, hopefully making their lives just a bit more tolerable. For these efforts, I salute you.

Obviously, there is much more work to be done and that work will continue as I pass the baton to our new Commanding Officer, Captain Jim Bird. I know you folks will give Capt Bird the

same respect and effort that you have shown me during my short tenure. I also know that Captain Bird will more than capably to steer the 4th in its proper course.

Thanks for all your efforts, I am sure our paths will cross once again. Semper Fi. KJ Krause.

COMMANDING OFFICER 4TH DENCO
CAPT JAMES BIRD

Entered USNR 1963 through the early commissioning program. Graduated dental school 1965 and 1st duty station MCRD San Diego. Then to USS Isle Royale, AD29 for WESTPAC and Chu Lai, Vietnam. Then several years of irregular Reserve time due to more school and graduate training. Then a break in service until 1990 - reentered USNR on a direct commission. AT and ADT for the last four years with Special Boat Unit 11 in Thailand and, this year, in Cambodia.

Married to Barbara Miranda for 34 years - we have three adult children and two grandchildren.

Educated at UC Berkeley undergraduate and UC San Francisco Dental School. Oral surgery residency three years at U.N. and general surgery residency one year at Highland Hospital, Oakland CA. Private practice in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Napa, CA since 1975.

Other interest - music(string bass), travel, fishing, chess, Tae Kwon Do, Aikido.

14th Dental Company
CAPT Ken Kucharz

Believe it or not, I had a happy and normal childhood. Do you know what that means? It means that I will never be on the Oprah Show!. Hated high school!! Most people don't believe it but I used to be extremely shy and quiet. What a drag! I told my kids not to do that. Takes all the fun out of life. Fortunately they followed my advice.

College was a totally different story. I decided to be outgoing and I made an effort to talk to everyone. I created a new Ken Kucharz over the old ken Kucharz. It must have worked. Even today people I don't even know keep telling me that I had a great time!! I wonder what that's all about? Now my daughter is going to the same college and I have to hesitate before I tell her to follow in my footsteps!

Dental school was tough! I really worked hard, but the worse part was that I was a single guy in Washington, DC, (the city with a ka-billion women) and there I was squirreled up in a library studying!!

Then came the Navy. I hadn't even turned in my cap and gown before I was being sworn in. My detailer said I would be at Newport, R.I. for two years. Do you know how to tell when a detailer is lying? His lips are moving!! So eleven days after arriving at Newport I have Orders to Vietnam. Bummer!!!! I can't imagine how I could have pissed enough people off in eleven days to deserve orders to Vietnam!!!!

Oh well, so now I have a chest full of medals and ribbons. Trust me, it just means that this young Lieutenant was too dumb to stay away from the bullets! I don't hunt anymore- I found out that it's not fun when you are at the receiving end!

Private practice has been all good. Well, in all honesty I don't do much anymore but for a long time it was fun. I may get back to it someday- stranger things have happened (but I can't think of any).

I like being in the Reserves. How would I ever have met people like Clayton Johnson, Pat Iadarola, and Mo Hill? It may sound corny but putting on that uniform every month is a special event in my life!! This job I have now has been the best so far.

Now comes the most amazing part - I FOUND A GIRL WHO AGREED TO MARRY ME!!!!! We are a great team- I am lucky! We have two kids who have made us proud parents in many ways. I freely admit that my kids have already far surpassed my accomplishments at their age. The kids are in college now and the house is extremely quiet. How sad!!!

So there you have it. My life story with all of the boring details omitted! I take it back-its still boring!!

I started my AMSUS presentation last year by saying the 14th Dental Company was "alive and

well". FY97, my first year at the helm, was another successful year with our members supporting AT evolution's from Alaska to Parris Island with wonderful "garden spots" in between like Fort Carson, Colorado and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. As in the past, the success of the mission is a testimony to the dedication of the people. For example, a number of our members volunteered to do two AT's this year so that "Operation Walking Shield", Dental support to the Sioux Indians in South Dakota, could be possible. Then there were the folks of DET 2 who were originally assigned to do an AT in Trinidad-Tobago which was canceled and reassigned as an AT in Panama which was canceled and reassigned as an AT in Haiti which was canceled and reassigned as an AT at Camp Pendleton called Kernal Blitz. If "flexibility" was a criteria for there "4th Dental Battalion Unit of the Year" award then they richly deserved it!

FY98 promises to be a completely new challenge with proposed cut backs and loss of billets looming on the horizon. Only history will be able to judge whether the cut backs are "right sizing" or "wrong sizing" but the fact remains that we will be expected to do as much or more with fewer people and less money.

FY97 saw the loss of several good people for reasons other than billet problems. Senior Chief John Falton retired in February and his loss was felt in the Company not only as a leader but also as a friend. I did not have a chance to work with John very long but it was very apparent that he commanded the respect of all who knew him. Commander Adam Bernhardt was forced to go to the IRR to concentrate on recovering from a bad auto accident. We miss Adam and wish him well. LCDR Pat Tordick Det 2 and CDR Blaine Mowry DET 3 both decided to go back on active duty. Several of our members decided to go to the IRR this year, leaving empty spaces in our ranks. That leads me to my next paragraph.

I started a recruiting drive in the 14th during my site visits and, if the CO gives me a few minutes to speak at AMSUS, I will share my ideas with everyone. Maybe we can start refilling those empty spaces. In any case, we might have some fun trying.

Currently we are struggling with the budget wars trying to have a Company-wide IDTT in October. The focus of the evolution will be the Landing Force Medical Staff Planners Course which is a new ITP requirement. With a little luck (and a few more dollars), we will be successful and the training will be accomplished.

Early indications are that the cuts of FY98 will leave the 14th battered and bruised but I have every confidence that we will still be in the fight. Rather than the old saying, "Join the Navy and See the World", we should say, "Join the Navy and Work with Great People." This is still the best job I ever had!!

14TH DENTAL COMPANY LCPO
DTC PAUL MORGAN

I was born on October 15, 1953, the fourth of six boys, to Edward and Mary Morgan. I don't remember much about my father, as he left when I was quite young. Times became very difficult when my father left, and my mother became extremely ill. My mother had to be hospitalized for a long period and my brother's and I were placed in an orphanage and eventually into foster homes. My mother eventually recuperated, and my family and I were all reunited. We were to say the least, very poor but very happy. I used to help earn money to help support the family by working before and after school. I had always considered myself to be very fortunate to have had so many brothers, When ever you did something wrong, you always had some one to blame it on. There was another big plus about having a large family, you learned how to fight well; and believe me, as kids, we did plenty of that. However, we looked out after one another, and none of the other kids in the neighborhood were allowed to put their hands on my brothers. I think my first big break in life happened when I joined the Navy on November 11, 1973. I was very proud to qualify for the Dental Technician Program. After having completed "A" School, I was assigned to a very small Dental Branch Clinic in Atsugi Japan. After completing active duty I returned home and rekindle my relationship with a beautiful girl name Susan Monczewski, a girl that I met during my

high school days. I remember how she would always come over to the local park and watch us fellows play football. If memory serves me correct, I used to tease her a lot. I guess she decided to get even and she did; "She married me". The big day was June 9, 1979. After eighteen years of marriage, we have two sons and two daughters, Jennifer 18, Jason 16, Stephanie 6, and Stephen 3. In 1988, while serving in a program 32 unit (NDCL 104) Philadelphia, Navy Base, I meet a MSC, LT Tony Richards. No one, and I repeat no one could talk someone into doing something they normally wouldn't do, like LT Richards. If any one had salesmanship abilities, it was this guy. I heard a lot of rumors about program 9, and had my reservations about affiliating with them; however, the 14th Dental Company was task with a field exercise, and not enough enlisted manpower to support it; so a short time later I had a camouflage uniform, and I was about to embark on what LT Richards promised would be "JUST ONE EXERCISE". Well, there was no doubt about it, I was hooked. I found program 9 to be so much more rewarding and stimulating than the program 32 unit. Plus it offered more travel and promotional opportunity. 1989 also turned out to be a good year for me, I was accepted to the Philadelphia Police Academy, graduated, and presently serve as a patrol officer in one of the largest and busiest districts in the city. I suppose if I had to name the highlights in my life, they would be the birth of my children, joining the Navy, affiliation with program 9, and becoming a Philadelphia Police Officer. In conclusion I'd like to leave you with the Morgan motto "DON'T EVER GIVE UP".

24TH DENTAL COMPANY

Capt Nanny

Well, it is time for us to stop and reflect on our experiences of FY97. We have many things to be thankful about. As of 01 October, 1997, I have relief Capt Mark Weaver as Commanding Officer of the 24th Dental Company until a proper relieve is selected by SURFRESFOR. Capt(Sel) Patrick Agrdoiza has relieved CDR K. Petrella as XO of 24th Dental Company. I want to thank Capt Weaver and Cdr Petrella for a job extremely well done. Their efforts in our behalf often go unnoticed, but, through their guidance and leadership the 24th DENCO has had an extremely productive year. The 24th Company IDTT was a monumental exercise that went very smoothly. We made some mistakes, but, we should learn from our mistakes. CDR Petrella and Capt(Sel) Agrodoiza have already initiated the planning for the 24th Dental Company IDTT for FY98. OICs please make sure that your REDCOMs and Reserve Centers have been informed of the 24th dental Company IDTT probably in April 1998. For this exercise, I expect to have 100% participation. Congratulations go to Det 1, Orlando for having 100% participation for IDTT 97. Only good things have been forwarded concerning the accomplishments during the 24th Dental Company annual training activities. I want to thank everyone for their participation in the Combined Arms Exercises, the Arctic Care exercise, humanitarian exercises and SAU exercise in Parris Island and San Diego. The "word" has been passed down from the Marine Corps leadership that they are very happy with the dental care that we have provided to the marines and sailors. NOW is the time to start planning for your FY98 AT. Please keep CDR Petrella and Capt(Sel) Agrdoiza informed of your AT plans. Speaking of CDR Petrella, in September she participated in the LCDR Selection Board. In August, Capt Weaver attended the Land Force Medical Planning Course in Jax.

Looking forward into FY98, the 24th Dental Company will be prepared for any challenge placed before us. The Commanding Officer 4th Dental Battalion and myself look forward to a very productive year. We expect your very best. If each of us gives 100%, our goals will be easily attainable. These goals consist of OTE of 90% for each detachment, 100% participation in annual training, 100% participation in 24th DenCo IDTT and to provide our best dental care for our marines and sailors.

Wishing everyone a joyful and thankful holiday season and may everyone be blessed for 1998!

24TH DENCO LCPO, DET 1
DTC(FMF) KENNETH KEENE

A native of Atlanta, GA, I have lived in and around Florida most of my life. One week before graduation from high school I enlisted in the Navy. January 1968 Basic Training and by April of the same year reported aboard the USS Annapolis (AGMR-1) for a far east tour in Vietnam. Eighteen plus months later, and after a tour of the world the ship was decommissioned in the Philadelphia Ship Yard. I completed Dental Basic school in March 1970. My next duty station was NAS, Key West, Florida from March 1970 to December 1971. I took an early out and attended Junior college in Tampa, FL, August 1976. I graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in Physical Education and Health.

I joined the Naval Reserve in February 1977 in Tampa, Fl. In 1980 the unit moved from Tampa to Orlando, changing from Program 32 to Program 9.

Military decorations include Navy Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation (2), Navy "E" Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Naval reserve Meritorious Service Medal with Silver Star, Fleet Marine Force Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal (2), Vietnam Service Medal (Bronze Star), Humanitarian Service Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserved Medal with bronze hour glass and bronze "M", Philippine Republic Presidential Unit citation, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, navy Pistol Marksmanship ribbon.

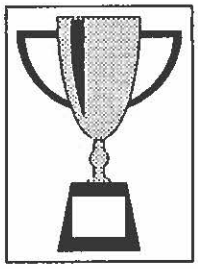
Additional tours of duty include Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm as support in Camp Lejuene, USNS Mercy 1987, presently serving as the Detachment 1, Orlando, FL, LCPO.

I'm a certified surgical technologist and first assistant at a major hospital in Tampa, Fl. This is my 20th year as a sports official in football, baseball, and high school wrestling. I'm married to the former Peggy E. Snider of Columbus, Ohio. We have two children, Tina and Timothy who are both attending a junior college in Tampa, FL.

Congratulations to the following:

DT2(FMF) Abbott ...SOQ 4th quarter
DT2 (FMF) Abbott..SOY (24th DenCo)
CDR Creed...OOY (Det 2, 4th DenCo)
DT1(SW/FMF) Townsel ....(HQSVCCO) Greater Atlanta Service Person of the Quarter.
DT1(SW/FMF) ...I&I of the Year

Admiral Vaughn nominees:
CDR Petrella.....24th DenCo, HQ
DT1(FMF) Titus..24th DenCo, Det 3
Unit....14th DenCo, Det 2



BOOK OF THE QUARTER
Bill Hartmann, LT, MSC, USN

BLIND COURAGE
By Bill Irwin

I was attending a retreat one weekend in Florida several years ago with my wife. One of the speakers was a man who spoke about courage. He didn't define courage as having the strength to make decisions, or having the courage to take on a new job. He defined courage as having the faith to believe. To believe in your own spiritual guidance in order to make it through life.

If you remember many of my articles mention the importance of balance in your life. This man believes that if you place your priorities with your faith leading the way, no obstacle will take over your life.

Bill Irwin's life wasn't always one of faith and leading your life in believing. He was making a living as a five pack a day smoker, an alcoholic,

and a man who failed four marriages. Several problems overcame the household, one being Bill Irwin was going blind due to a rare eye disease. His story with life before and after his affliction is a story of remarkable commitment, perseverance, and the will to survive.

On March 8th, 1990 Bill Irwin set out on a journey, blind and with no help except for his beautiful seeing eye dog Orient, he started walking the Appalachian Trail at Springer Mountain, GA. He became the first blind person to walk the entire trail. Through fourteen states, along 2,168.9 miles, he and Orient endured what we would describe insurmountable odds and with faith survived.

After his journey, Bill set out to write Blind Courage (originally was to be named Orient express), and after several attempts he was published. Today, Blind Courage is a book that should be required reading for everyone.

Check it out -------- If you have the courage.

IMPORTANT DATES

Basic DT Proficiency Crs.....17-19 Oct 97
AMSUS.....17-19 Nov 97
Advanced DT Proficiency Crs..23-25 Jan 98

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Report on Exercises
Manning of Program Nine
Question and Answer
Meet your shipmates

Battalion Newsletter Staff

Commanding Officer; proprietor
LT Hartmann, Publisher
DTC(FMF) Davis, 24th DenCo(I&I), Editor

Contributors:
Captain Biolo, Commanding Officer
Captain Kucharz, Co ,14th DenCo
Captain Krause, Co, 4th DenCo (outgoing)
Captain Bird, Co, 4th DenCo (incoming)
Captain Nanny, 24th DenCo
CDR Petrella, (OPSO, 4th Den Bn)
DTCM Fernandez, (CMC)
DTC Morgan (14th LCPO)
DTC Keene (24th LCPO)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

THE LAST WORD

Bill Hartmann, LT, MSC, USN

On September 7th, Captain Hill relinquished his command to Captain Biolo during a command ceremony that had professional film crews from the local television , the Navy Band live, the fly over of the new jet fighter and the unfortunate fainting of one of the color guard members. Everyone was there, parents, wife's, friends, Admirals, Colonels, Captains, Junior Officers, Enlisted personnel who were representing the 4th Dental Battalion from near and afar. There was on other individual there, this Lieutenant standing in the back listening and watching as a great Commanding Officer turned the unit over to another fine Officer.

As Captain Hill orated his well crafted speech I reflected back over the past two years and the accomplishments he and the Battalion overall had achieved (trust me I had plenty of time to reflect). Captain Hill is a man of his word, always, an attribute rarely observed anywhere. He is a man on integrity and fine character. His unafraid of making tuff choices that go against the grain and stick to his beliefs. A man who

worked everyday for the Battalion often traveling to meetings, exercises, conferences on his own dime to ensure proper representation.

Over the past two years I received first hand the meaning of taking care of your people. I can't tell you how refreshing it was to see someone take real action versus just talking to politically correct when talking about their troops. I remember the personal phone calls to Battalion personnel who had the misfortune of living through some real hardships. I can remember the day that he found out DTCM Hood had an accident. His concern over the incident was at a level difficult to describe in words. I can remember an Arctic Care 97 conversations when he found out his people spent the night on a hanger floor. One of first words were " He should've put them all into a hotel, pay the bill and worry about reimbursement later. " " What happen is an excellent example of not taking care of your people."

Right up to the change of command he never stopped caring for his people. Remember the fainting spell I mentioned during the ceremony? Well it happen right in the middle of his speech. Now those of us on Active Duty know that during a ceremony if someone was to faint we'd have corpsman standing by (as we did) and they would tend to the patient. The ceremony goes on, while aid is being rendered. Captain Hill stopped his speech and waited for proper medical attention to be rendered and all people were back in there respective places, he wanted to make sure the shipmate was okay and that no one missed the important message of his speech. His people during his tour.

Captain Hill never really talked about the past, he was always working on what could be done (don't ever tell him it can't be done) to better the Battalion. He reminded me of the person who doesn't always do the way others do.

As my reflection over the past two years was coming to an end I realized that I've been taught invaluable lessons in leadership, integrity and commitment. I believe if I was to ask the Captain for some advice he would respond something similar to a quote I once read.

"I once complained to my father that I didn't seem to be able to do things the same way other people did. Dads advice?

Margo, don't be a sheep. People hate sheep. They eat sheep. "(Margo Kaufman)

Captain, thank-you for letting me share in the success of the Battalion over the past two years. Your truly a fine Commanding Officer and I would be honored to serve on your staff again.

On a personal note, I have found the friendship we've developed as invaluable. You will always be with me in thought and in my prayers. Good Luck. God Bless and may the luck of the Irish always be with you and your family.

As always
Charlie Golf One
LT (Dan)